

What are the Democrats worried about, Mr. Speaker? Could it be because this is the latest board game in the United States, that the American health care consumer stands on this side of 31 bureaucracies and they have to figure out how to get through 31 bureaucracies before they can get to their doctor? Or could it be, Mr. Speaker, because this will cost 5 million jobs? Or could it be, Mr. Speaker, because this will cost \$2 trillion in additional deficit?

I can understand why the Democrats wouldn't want the American people to see this, but I don't understand how you can make the claim that this is the most transparent Congress in the history of this country, if you won't even let the American people see that there are 31 bureaucracies that stand between average Americans and their doctor.

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the American people get to see the truth. This shouldn't be contraband.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe it. The Democrats have 70-some more Members in this Chamber than we do, and yet they're afraid to let the American people know what's in their health plan. This thing, I call it a thing, has 31 new Federal agencies, commissions and mandates in it, and that's between the doctor and their patient. And the American people have a right to know these things, and they're saying we can't put it on our Web site. We can't mail it to our constituents. We can't tell them about it. That is censorship.

They shouldn't have to worry. With 70-some more votes than we have, they ought to be able to do anything they want to in this House. But even Democrats don't like this plan. That's why they can't get it out of the House and can't even get it out of committee right now.

The American people have a right to know. Censorship should never happen in the House of Representatives, the people's House, and I'd say to the Speaker, let's get with it. The American people should see what they're going to get if they pass your plan.

CENSORSHIP IN THIS HOUSE

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, during the American Revolution, often Voltaire was quoted for saying, I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. Man, the revolution has been turned on its head.

Now we're told that you cannot use government resources to use the term

"government-run health care" because that offends the majority, so they are censoring the mail, censoring the resources here. But now we are, until they turn off the mikes and the lights again this year, we're able to hold posters here on the floor. Here's another thing that's been censored.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. Just because anybody disagrees with what we say, it's no reason to shut down our right to say it. This country can't proceed with this kind of censorship.

CENSORSHIP

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I serve on the Franking Commission for this body. The purpose of the Franking Commission essentially is to make sure that government resources are not used in a way that would look like it's campaign purposes; that is, we are very careful about how many times you use the personal pronoun "I," how many times you can have your picture in a newsletter. But never in the history of this House have these rules been used to censor Members from articulating a point of view on an issue that is before this House.

This chart has been introduced into the record, the official record of consideration of the health bill before the Ways and Means Committee, and yet we have been told by the majority, we've been told that it's been taken above the level of those of us on the Franking Commission. We've been told that we cannot use this. Why? Because they disagree with our opinions expressed herein.

I didn't know that one of the obligations of the minority was to accept censorship because the majority does not want our efforts to get in their way of passing a health bill that takes control of health away from people and puts it in the government.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVIL). The Chair announces a correction to an earlier vote tally. On roll call vote No. 628, the ayes were 105 and the noes were 328.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CENSORSHIP BY THE MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I've been in this House for a long time and I've served with a number of Presidents. I've served with a number of Democrat and Republican Speakers. I've served with colleagues that are very good friends of mine that are Democrats and Republicans, and I've never had a problem getting along with them. And even though we have strong differences with my Democrat colleagues, at least I felt they were fair most of the time. In fact, they always tried to be fair. And I've talked to the majority leader about problems. We've talked to a lot of the Members that are chairmen of committees about problems, and they've been very fair in most cases. But I have never, ever seen anything like this.

This is a chart that shows the Democrats' health care plan. We've been talking about it tonight. KEVIN BRADY worked this up, and it's very, very accurate. It shows all of the committees or agencies that are going to be created that the American people are going to have to go through to get health care. There are 31 new Federal agencies, commissions and mandates that will come between the patient and their doctor.

Now, we have had problems dealing with the post office. The post office has had their stamps going up because they're not making the profit that they should. We have problems with HHS. We have problems with the automobile industry now that's now called Obama Motors. We have all kinds of problems right now because government cannot handle the things that the private sector can.

Now, we do need to improve health care. We need to make some changes that will be positive, and the Republicans have a plan to do that, but to say that that is something that we should not show the American people is really tragic. It is censorship. The American people have a right to know. We're their elected representatives.

I represent almost 700,000 people in Indiana, and a lot of them are calling, asking what this new health care plan's going to do to them, and we wanted to send this out to those people so that they could see with their own eyes what they're going to have to go through to get health care, how much it's going to cost and how long it will take. But they're saying, the Democrats are saying we cannot send this out to our constituents. That is just wrong. It's censorship. And in all years I've been in this body, I've never seen anything like this.

There have been a lot of differences with the Speakers of the Democrats in the past, but there's never, ever been anything like this. And I'd say to the Speaker if she were here tonight, "Change this, Madam Speaker. This is

something that even you should never tolerate, the censorship of a Member of Congress from telling his constituents what's really going on around here, especially when their health care is concerned."

OVER 5,000 NOW DEAD IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, five American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan so far this week. That brings the death toll in July to 31, making this the deadliest month for our troops since the conflict in Afghanistan began.

We also passed another tragic milestone this week. According to official Department of Defense statistics, over 5,000 American troops have now died in Iraq and Afghanistan, combined.

Of course, the human tragedy is even greater than that, because the 5,000 figure doesn't include the number of wounded American troops or the casualties suffered by the troops of other nations. It also doesn't include Iraqi civilian casualties or the military family members whose lives have been devastated. The human tragedy is so great, you can't really calculate it. And of course you must add in the Afghanistan civilian casualties as well.

What has been the reaction of this, in this Congress to the catastrophe? Well, we have passed yet another supplemental funding bill to keep the fighting going. But the situation in Afghanistan is becoming more and more dangerous. The U.S. Command expects that roadside or suicide bombings against our troops will be 50 percent higher this year than last year. In the first week of June, alone, there were more than 400 attacks, the highest level since 2001. And the Pentagon has admitted that we are losing troops at an alarming rate.

I voted against the supplemental funding bill because 90 percent of it pays for the military-only approach that has been such a failure in Afghanistan. Less than 10 percent of the supplemental goes to pay for the non-military activities that can actually prevent extremism in Afghanistan. These include economic development, reconstruction, humanitarian aid, civil affairs, and diplomacy. Even National Security Advisor James Jones has said that nonmilitary approaches are vital and that they have always been lagging.

Well, it's time for them to stop lagging, Mr. Speaker. It's time to put those ideas front and center. We must also launch a new regional diplomatic surge that engages Afghanistan's neighbors in efforts to help the Afghan people and strengthen the central government's ability to deliver services and protect the citizens.

In addition to Afghanistan, we must also pay attention to other parts of the

world where extremists take advantage of poverty and lack of opportunity to recruit new members. In these areas, America must invest in basic human needs like jobs, like health, education, education especially for girls and women who are often completely shut out of the classroom.

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This is what the people want. This is what they need from America, not more innovations, not more occupations. This is what will bring real hope for the people's future, and this is what will help to avoid adding extremists in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, by changing and by supporting smart power over other priorities and goals, we can give the people of Afghanistan help. We can help them build a stable and functioning state. We can save the lives of our troops, and we can go a long way toward defeating extremism and stopping those who threaten our security—oh, and it would save billions of dollars as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROMOTE AVIATION THROUGH RESPONSIBLE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, good evening.

Since the Wright brothers left the ground for the first time at Kitty Hawk, aviation has fascinated our collective imagination, contributed to unprecedented interaction among people, and grown to become one of the most important industries in our Nation.

Whether it was aviators of the past, like Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, or those more recently, like Steve Fossett, who flew a solo, nonstop trip around the world that began and ended in Salina, Kansas, aviation has had a unique ability to capture our attention and to inspire us to achieve things which we once thought were impossible.

Advances in aviation technology and engineering have led to the development of larger, faster, more fuel-efficient planes that carry passengers and goods around the world. The ease of travel and shipment modern aviation allows has contributed to a worldwide economic growth and to new opportunities for leisure travel for far more people than ever before. In America, the aviation industry accounts for more than \$1 trillion in economic activity each year. Millions of Americans are employed by this critical industry that facilitates so many other economic transactions.

As a Kansan, I take special pride in the aviation industry, which has deep roots in our State. Pioneers in the industry, such as Glenn Stearman, Walter Beech, Clyde Cessna, Bill Lear, and Amelia Earhart, all have important connections to the Sunflower State. Many of these innovators helped establish Wichita as the "Air Capital of the World." Today, a who's who of aviation companies operates in the city of Wichita, including Boeing, Airbus, Bombardier, Cessna, Hawker Beechcraft, Spirit Aerosystems, and Raytheon.

In Kansas, the aviation industry accounts for 20 percent of the State's manufacturing employment, and it employs tens of thousands of Kansans. Engineers, machinists, mechanics, inspectors, scientists, and technicians are dedicated to producing the best aircraft in the world. These employees take great pride in what they do, and they deserve our support.

Yet the industry faces significant challenges. The recession has hit aviation hard, and many workers have lost their jobs. During the difficult times that we're in, Congress especially needs to be supportive of this critical component of America's manufacturing base. Efforts to demagogue about the use of private planes and business aviation by private corporations harm this industry. I was troubled in January, during the consideration of the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, that provisions to limit businesses from leasing or from using general aircraft for business purposes were almost included in the final legislation. Doing so would have lowered the national aviation production, and it would have hurt workers everywhere, especially in Kansas, where more than 54 percent of our country's aviation products are manufactured.

Congress must remember the importance of this industry, not only to our national economy but to so many local and regional economies within the country. It is in our collective interest to protect and to encourage growth in the general aviation community.

As a member of the Congressional Aviation Caucus, I work to inform and to educate Members of Congress about the importance of this industry to our Nation. Congress was right to, once again, reject the "user-fee" proposal that would have further harmed general aviation. User fees would have unfairly burdened the general aviation industry. Congress must continue to oppose unnecessary taxes or fees on general aviation. Those in Congress must also question and fight the impractical regulations, such as the Transportation Security Administration's large aircraft security proposal, which would apply to many of the planes owned by individuals and small companies.

When it comes to key American industries, aviation is at the top of the list. I encourage my colleagues to join me in pledging to do all we can to promote aviation through responsible policy.